

Message Text

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73

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /101 W

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R 192024Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8358

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS USUN 2944

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, PDIP

SUBJECT: UN DOMESTICS SEEK 20M FOR "SLAVERY"

1. ACCORDING TO REPORT IN NEW YORK DAILY NEWS OF JULY 17, 1976, A UNITED NATIONS UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL AND OTHER UN OFFICIALS WERE CHARGED WITH RECRUITING AND ENSLAVING FOREIGN DOMESTICS IN A \$20 MILLION FEDERAL DAMAGE SUIT FILED JULY 16 BY TWO FILIPINO HOUSEKEEPERS. THE WOMEN SAY THEY WERE FORCED TO WORK AN 82-HOUR WEEK AND WERE PAID \$12 TO \$20 PER WEEK.

2. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT THE SUIT, BROUGHT IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT AS A CLASS ACTION, NAMED ALL UN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE IMPORTED OR EMPLOYED PERSONS BELOW THE MINIMUM WAGE OR UNDER ALLEGED CONDITIONS OF INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE. SPECIFICALLY NAMED WERE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL I.G. PATEL, AN INDIAN DIPLOMAT WHO IS DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF UNDP AND RUBEN MENDEZ, AN OFFICER IN UNDP'S FAR EAST DIVISION.

3. MENDEZ WAS CHARGED WITH EMPLOYING ONE OF THE WOMEN FROM OCTOBER 1969 TO AUGUST 1975 AND PAYING HER \$2,431 DURING THE SIX-YEAR PERIOD. THE WOMEN SAID THEIR CHORES
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INCLUDED GARDENING, HOUSE CLEANING, COOKING, SERVING GUESTS,

DOING LAUNDRY AND TENDING TO FAMILY PETS.

4. WE ARE CONTACTING THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT
FEDERAL COURT TO GET FURTHER DETAILS ON CASE. PATEL
HAS BEEN GRANTED DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITY UNDER
CONVENTION ON PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF UN. MEMDEZ
DOES NOT HAVE IMMUNITY FROM SUIT OR LEGAL PROCESS, EXCEPT
FOR OFFICIAL ACTS.
BENNETT

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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